

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

OIC-02 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /160 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8887

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3463

FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE: COMMITTEE I DEBATE ON AUGUST 25

SUMMARY: COMMITTEE I FORMED A NEGOTIATING GROUP OF TWENTY-SIX COUNTRIES. THIS GROUP MET FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS, BUT ALMOST ALL OF THE TIME WAS SPENT ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. THE BRIEF SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ONLY EMPHASIZED THE SPLIT IN THE COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY

1. THE GROUP OF 77 AGREED ON THE MORNING OF AUG. 25 ON ITS PARTICIPANTS IN A NEGOTIATING GROUP. THIS GROUP IS COMPOSED OF 26 COUNTRIES (US, UK, FRG, FRANCE, USSR, GDR, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, NORWAY, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, PORTUGAL, MEXICO, BRAZIL, JAMAICA, EQUADOR, IRAQ, IRAN, INDONESIA, SRI LANKA, TUNISIA, TANZANIA, GHANA, SENEGAL, ZAMBIA) PLUS PERU AS AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTING THE GROUP OF 77. THE NEGOTIATING GROUP
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HELD ITS FIRST SESSION IMMEDIATELY, IN THE SAME ROOM,

WITH MEMBERS SEATED CLOSE TO THE CENTER AND OTHER DELEGATIONS ON THE OUTSIDE.

2. THE DEBATE FOCUSED ON THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED. IRAQ INSISTED THAT ALL DISCUSSION HAD TO BE ON THE G-77 TEXT SINCE IT REPRESENTED THE "ONLY NEGOTIATED PROPOSAL." THE US (RATINER) SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP PUT THE QUESTION OF TEXTS ASIDE AND ISOLATE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT, PERHAPS BY ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH THE AUTHORITY COULD DENY ACCESS TO APPLICANTS. SOME DELEGATIONS ADDRESSED THIS ISSUE, BUT OTHERS SUGGESTED OTHER PROCEDURES. BY MID AFTERNOON THE SESSION HAD DEGENERATED INTO ALMOST TOTAL CHAOS, IN NO SMALL PART BECAUSE OF THE PARTICULARLY INEPT HANDLING OF THE MEETING BY PRESIDING CO-CHAIRMAN JAGOTA.

3. THE GROUP FINALLY AGREED TO TAKE UP PARAGRAPH 7(A) OF EITHER THE G-77 TEXT OR THE RSNT, DEPENDING UPON ONE'S PREFERENCE (BOTH TEXTS ARE ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL). THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE DISCUSSION WERE: (A) THE US, SUPPORTED BY THE UK, AND THE FRG, STATED THAT PARA 7(A) SHOULD BE AN EXHAUSTIVE LISTING OF THE CRITERIA THAT APPLICANTS MUST MEET AND THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE WORD "ONLY" BE INSERTED AFTER "INCLUDE" IN THE SECOND SENTENCE OF THE PARAGRAPH. THE G-77 (LIBYA, TUNISIA, MEXICO, PERU) RESPONDED THAT PARAGRAPH 7(A) WAS CLEARLY NOT MEANT TO BE EXHAUSTIVE SINCE THE AUTHORITY COULD ALSO REFUSE ACCESS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARA 1. (II) OF THE G-77 DRAFT ART. 22, AND PARAS. 7(C), 8, AND 8(BIS) OF THE G-77 DRAFT ANNEX I. (B) THE USSR STATED THAT SINCE STATES WERE NOT EXPLICITLY EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARA 7(A), IT COULD NOT ACCEPT IT. IT SUGGESTED THAT THE LANGUAGE FROM PARA 7(B) OF THE US DRAFT ARTICLE 22 WHICH STATES THAT STATES WILL PRESUME TO POSSESS THE QUALIFICATIONS BE ADDED AT THE END OF PARA 7(A). THE US SUPPORTED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL.

4. THE NEGOTIATING GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN TOMORROW FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PARA 7(A), AND, WHITH LUCK PARA 7(B) OF ARTICLE 22.
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COMMENT: TODAY'S DEBATE EMPHASIZED THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE G-77 AND THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED STATES ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS. IT ALSO UNDERLINED THAT THE NEGOTIATING GROUP IS UNLIKELY TO BRIDGE THIS GAP BECAUSE IT IS TOO LARGE, TOO PUBLIC, AND HAS WEAK LEADERSHIP. THIS FACT IS APPARENT TO ALL, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE THAT COMMITTEE I HAS THE WILL OR THE ABILITY TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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